

Night 20

Highlights from Surah Ya Seen

The Sura derives its name from the two letters of the alphabet with which it begins. It is a Makki Surah. According to an authentic hadiths, the Prophet^{SAW} said: "Surah Ya Seen is the heart of the Qur'an." It is so because it presents the message of the Qur'an in a most forceful manner, which breaks the inertness and stirs the spirit of man to action. The Prophet^{SAW} is also reported to have said: "Recite Surah Ya Sin to the dying ones among you."

Subject Matter and Theme

The main object of the Surah is to warn the Quraish of the consequences of rejecting the message of Prophet Muhammad^{SAW} and to tell them about the correct 'Aqeedah. Tauhid, Hereafter, and Prophethood are the main topics of discussion. The Quraish are told that the signs of the truthfulness of Prophet^{SAW}'s message are visible in the universe, common sense, and in your own existence.

On the strength of these arguments, stern warnings have been given to the kuffar. The Prophet^{SAW} is reminded that no matter how hard he tries some people will not believe in his message. Guidance is in the hands of Allah^{SWT}.

Key Highlights

- v You can only warn him who follows the Reminder (the Qur'ân), and fears the Most Beneficent (Allâh) unseen. Give such people the glad tidings of forgiveness, and a generous reward (i.e. Paradise).
- v Verily, We give life to the dead, and We record that which they send before (them), and their traces (their footsteps and walking on the earth with their feet to the mosque for the five compulsory congregational prayers, *Jihâd* and all other good and evil they did, and that which they leave behind), and all things We have recorded with numbers (as a record) in a Clear Book.
- v Alas for mankind! There never came a Messenger to them but they used to mock at him.
- v Did I not ordain for you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship *Shaitân* (Satan). Verily, he is a plain enemy to you.
- v And We have not taught him (Muhammad^{SAW}) poetry, nor is it meant for him. This is only a Reminder and a plain Qur'ân. That he or it (Muhammad^{SAW} or the Qur'ân) may give warning to him who is living (a healthy minded the believer), and that Word (charge) may be justified against the disbelievers (dead, as they reject the warnings).

Highlights from Surah As-Saaffaat

It is derived from the first word of the Surah: By those Saaffaat (angels) ranged in ranks (or rows). It is

a Makki Surah whose style indicates that the kuffar's hostility is on the rise and the Prophet^{SAW} and his Companions are passing through a very difficult time.

Subject Matter and Theme

The disbelievers of Makkah have been severely warned for their attitude of mockery and derision with which they were responding to the Prophet^{SAW}'s message of Tauhid and the Hereafter and for their utter refusal to accept and acknowledge his claim to Prophethood. In the end, they have been told that if they persist on disbelief, they will be defeated and humiliated by the army of Allah^{SWT}. This notice was given at a time when there appeared no chance whatsoever that the Prophet^{SAW} will defeat the kuffar. The Muslims (who have been called Allah's army in these verses) were being made the target of severe persecution. In a heart-penetrating style the Surah explains Tauhid and the Hereafter and criticizes the absurdity of the mushrekeen's beliefs; it also cites examples of earlier people and how Allah^{SWT} honored those who followed the prophets and dishonored those who rejected them.

The most crucial part in this Surah is the illustrious events of the pious life of the Prophet Abraham^{AS}, who became ready to sacrifice his first-born son, Ismaeel^{AS}, as soon as he received an inspiration from Allah^{SWT} to do so.

And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offer you in sacrifice to Allâh), so look what you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Inshâ' Allâh (if Allâh wils), you shall find me of As-Sâbirin (the patient ones, etc.)."

In this there was a lesson not only for the disbelieving Quraish, who were proud of their blood relationship with him, but also for the Muslims. By narrating this event they were told what is the essence and the real spirit of Islam, and how a true believer should be ready to sacrifice everything for the pleasure and obedience of Allah^{SWT}.

The last verses of the Surah were not only a warning for the disbelievers but also good news for the believers who were passing through highly distressful conditions that eventually they will be victorious.

"We have already promised our servants whom We sent as Messengers that certainly they would be helped, and surely Our forces (the believers) will be victorious!" [37:171-173]

A few years later the turn of events proved that it was not an empty consolation but an inevitable reality.

Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of Honor and Power! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him! And peace be on the Messengers! And all the praise and thanks be to Allâh, Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinns and all that exists).